



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Somers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Councilor Antipas attended the March 22nd Boating Advisory Board meeting where a number of items were discussed including recognizing the volunteers who helped construct a rack and he asked that the Council also acknowledge the efforts.

4. Approval of Minutes

None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

2012-0101 Labor Negotiations (2012 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that the members of the Town Council, together with Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman, Manager of Labor Relations Joyce Sauchuk and Town Attorney Eileen Duggan go into executive session at 7:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategy and/or negotiations with respect to current and pending collective bargaining with multiple bargaining units. This action is taken without prejudice to the Council's right to discuss these matters in a private meeting pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1 200(2).

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 7:43 p.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2011-0218 Fitch High School Baseball Field - Update

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Watson, to enter executive session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss 2011-0218 Fitch High School Baseball Field - Update and to invite the Town Manager and Town Attorney Eric Callahan to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 8:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to direct the Town Attorney on the Town's behalf to send the amended contract to the baseball team with a time limit for them to

respond.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0098

Approval of Lease with TVCCA for a Daycare Center at Former Community Policing Building

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted that when the community policing program was eliminated from the budget, TVCCA was approached about leasing 38 Central Avenue. TVCCA currently leases the two buildings on either side of the property for day care purposes. The proposed lease was modeled after the existing TVCCA leases. The Town Manager recommends in favor of the lease. He noted that Deb Monahan of TVCCA had indicated a desire to discuss constructing a new facility on the property in the future.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Johnson asked what would happen if the community policing program was brought back to the Fort Hill neighborhood and the Town Manager stated that they would have to find another location for the office.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0102

Application for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for Highway Garage

Discussed

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, noted there is an FYE 2013 CIP project to 'harden' the highway garage to withstand a Category 3 hurricane. The total cost of the project is \$315,000. The grant would pay approximately \$236,000 with a \$79,000 match from the Town. The concern with the loss of the building is the loss of space during an emergency and loss of equipment.

Councilor Streeter asked why this isn't in the CIP. Mr. Schneider noted the Town's match will be in the CIP and will be reviewed as part of the budget process. This request is only seeking authorization to submit the grant application.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Mayor Somers asked if there will be insurance benefits associated with upgrading the building, but it is unknown at this time. Councilor Johnson asked about the life expectancy of the building as a result of the upgrade. Mr. Schneider noted this building will be here for the next 30 to 50 years and it is considered 'a keeper.'

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0087

West Side Middle School Portable Classroom Unit

Recommended for a Resolution

See discussion and vote under 2012-0090 in March 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole minutes.

2012-0088

Carl C. Cutler Middle School Portable Classroom Units

Recommended for a Resolution

See discussion and vote under 2012-0090 in March 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole minutes.

2012-0089

Mary Morrisson Asbestos Floor Tile Removal

Recommended for a Resolution

See discussion and vote under 2012-0090 in March 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole minutes.

2012-0090

Fitch High School Roof Replacement

Discussed

Wes Greenleaf, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for Groton Public Schools, stated he will be

applying for four grants with a 50-57% reimbursement rate expected. Approving the draft resolutions does not obligate the Town to do the projects, but allows the grant applications to be submitted. Mr. Greenleaf reviewed the funding approved for the double portables at West Side and Cutler, and the costs associated with asbestos tile removal at Mary Morrisson and a partial roof replacement at Fitch High School. Mr. Greenleaf is asking the Council to authorize the grant applications, to appoint the Board of Education or Permanent School Building Committee as the Building Committee for the projects, and to authorize the preparation of drawings and specifications. Discussion followed on the asbestos floor tile, its deteriorating condition, and the requirement for abatement. Mr. Greenleaf noted that asbestos removal in the schools has been delayed while attempting to develop an overall renovation plan for the schools.

Councilor Flax and Mayor Somers expressed support for appointing the Permanent School Building Committee as the Building Committee. Mayor Somers would like periodic updates from the Permanent School Building Committee on the projects.

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Mary Morrisson and Fitch High School projects have not yet been approved by the Town Council or RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0083 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0084 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0085 Supportive Housing Program Grant

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0086 Allocation of CIP Funds to Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department for Grant Local Match

Discussed

Joe Sastre, Manager of Emergency Services and Chief Todd Paige of Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department were present. Mr. Sastre is requesting that a portion of \$330,000 previously allocated in a CIP project to address radio issues be used as the local match for a grant obtained by the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District. The 80/20 grant would result in \$748,896 in federal funds to be matched locally with \$187,224. The remaining funding in the CIP project could be reprogrammed for other projects or could remain in Capital Reserve.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Town Manager Oefinger suggested modifications to the draft resolution to clarify that the Town is authorizing the use of the dollars to serve as the local match, not providing funding to the fire district. The project must be completed in about 10½ months. It was noted that Chief Paige had provided the Council with a PowerPoint presentation. Chief Paige stated that over a million dollars in grants have been received by the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District in the past year due to the efforts of a few firefighters in the department.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0040 Town Council Goal Setting**Discussed**

After some discussion, the consensus of the Council was to defer discussion of goal setting to the end of April, after budget deliberations.

2012-0062 Groton Heights School Reuse Task Force Final Report**Recommended for a Resolution**

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Watson, to formally accept the report. The Town Manager noted that it would also be desirable to have a follow up discussion on the recommendations contained in the report.

The motion carried unanimously

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager distributed information showing the impacts of the revaluation by district along with four recent sales from Groton Long Point to show how sales are tracking in that area. Councilors also received a list of the sample sales throughout the Town that were used to establish the benchmarks, organized by district. Mayor Somers asked if foreclosures are included and the Town Manager indicated he would check.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.